

COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1922-2022) (ABRIDGED)

THE FIRST 25 YEARS (1922-1947)

On the afternoon of Christmas Day 1921, Dr. John Watchorn, then Secretary of the Philadelphia Church Extension Society, conducted the first service of the **Springfield Community Church – Methodist Episcopal** in the old Central School on Saxer Avenue. Nineteen were present.



Dec 25/1921

Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Carr Jr
 Mr. Art Wainwright Carter
 " " Theo S. Hurlock & Elma
 Mrs. Chas. L. Chubbman
 four daughters
 Mr. C.P. Shoffner
 " J.M. Cloaky
 Young woman from Media
 name is not known
 Howard Satterthwaite & daughter
 Mrs. Mrs. J.W. Calder
 J.W. Sloan

Present at starting of
 Church Dec 25/1921 at
 Schoolhouse
 Mr. Watchorn, Mr. Gentry

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The official beginning of the Springfield Community Church Methodist Episcopal was Sunday, **February 19, 1922** when C. W. Hansen, District Superintendent, visited and began the work of establishing a local church organization by taking into membership 14 charter members. Subsequent anniversaries have been based on the official beginning year of 1922.

CHARTER MEMBERS



Rebecca and John Calder

John and Rebecca Calder	Emma K. Mason
Frank and Margaret Carr	Raymond and Stella Sheetz
Alice Churchman	Mrs. Joseph W. Sloan
Thomas and Elma Hurlock	Mrs. Clara Wintermate
George and Bessie Kurtz	

Beginning in 1922, Rebecca Calder was the Vice President of the Ladies Aid Society and John Calder was the first Church School Superintendent and Secretary of the first Board of Trustees.

The church continued to meet at the old Central School until 1924. **Harry P. Gentry**, a lay preacher (1922-1928), was appointed the minister of the church at an annual salary of \$1,000. Mrs. Raymond Sheetz (Stella) organized and directed a choir of 12 members.




Stella Sheetz

After two years of canvassing for financial support, on April 13, 1924, ground was broken at a site at Saxer Avenue and Springfield Road. Just eight months after ground breaking services were held, the new building was consecrated. On December 7, 1924 an organ recital, played on the new Estey Reed Organ preceded the service. The church membership was over 150 and the Sunday School had an attendance of about 250.



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At the August 24th corner stone laying, Mr. Thomas S. Hurlock, President of the Board of Trustees, read the list of articles placed in a copper box, which included: a Bible, an American flag; list of church members; list of contributors to the building fund, names of Board of Trustees; circulars and programs used at "Ground Breaking" and "Cornerstone Services"; three weekly newspapers in Springfield and the Sunday church notice pages in all the Philadelphia papers. The copper box has survived but not the contents.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>"O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together"</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">"DEDICATION SERVICE"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY HOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH (METHODIST EPISCOPAL)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPRINGFIELD ROAD AND SAXER AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, PA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER SEVENTH AT THREE O'CLOCK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"A House of Prayer and Christian Friendship for all people! A Church with an Inter-Denominational Spirit. You will find a Christian welcome."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Harry Pollard Gentry, Pastor. "At your service." 6038 Walker Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Phone, Frankford 1467-W.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ORDER OF SERVICE</p> <p>Organ Recital—By George Y. Belcher, Philadelphia. (Mr. Belcher comes by courtesy of the Estey Company):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"March of the Priests"..... Mendelssohn "Traumeri"..... Schuman. "Reverie—Religioso"..... Steele</p> <p>Hymn 661—By the Congregation:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Come, O thou God of Grace, Dwell in this holy place, E'en now descend! This temple, reared to Thee, O may it ever be Filled with Thy majesty, Till time shall end!</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Be in each song of praise Which here Thy people raise With hearts aflame! Let every anthem rise Like incense to the skies, A joyful sacrifice To Thy blest name!</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Speak, O eternal Lord, Out of Thy living word, O give success! Do Thou the truth impart Unto each waiting heart, Source of all strength thou art, Thy gospel bless.</p> <p>Introductory Remarks by Our Pastor—Rev. Harry Pollard Gentry.</p> <p>Invocation—Rev. W. C. Kilpatrick, Rector, Protestant Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Springfield.</p> <p>Anthem—"I Will Feed My Flock," <i>Stimper</i>—By Choir of Springfield Community Church.</p> <p>Address—"Our Community Church and Its Real Significance to Springfield"—Warren Carter, Chairman of Building Committee.</p> <p>Solo—"Great Peace Have They," <i>Rogers</i>—Mrs. Edna Mumford.</p> <p>Remarks—Rev. W. A. Ferguson, D.D., Superintendent, Missionary and Church Extension District, Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia.</p>	<p>Come, O thou God of Grace, Dwell in this holy place, E'en now descend! This temple, reared to Thee, O may it ever be Filled with Thy majesty, Till time shall end!</p>	<p>Be in each song of praise Which here Thy people raise With hearts aflame! Let every anthem rise Like incense to the skies, A joyful sacrifice To Thy blest name!</p>
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(Continued)

COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1922-2022) (ABRIDGED)

Hymn 666—By the Congregation:

We rear not a temple like Judah's of old,
Whose portals were marble, whose vaultings were gold;
No incense is lighted, no victims are slain,
No monarch kneels praying to hallow the fane.
No monarch kneels praying to hallow the fane.

More simple and lowly the walls that we raise,
And humbler the pomp of procession and praise,
Where the heart is the altar, whence incense shall roll,
And Messiah the King Who shall pray for the soul,
And Messiah the King Who shall pray for the soul.

O come in the power of Thy life-giving word,
And reveal to each heart its Redeemer and Lord,
Till faith bring the peace to the penitent given,
And love fill the air with the fragrance of heaven,
And love fill the air with the fragrance of heaven.

Scripture Lesson—Rev. John Earl Jackman, Springfield Presbyterian Church.

Address—"What Has Been Given to Springfield Architecturally in the Building of This Edifice"—Henry H. Dean, Esq., architect of our structure.

Announcement and Acceptance of Memorial Gifts—Pastor.

Anthem—"Rejoice in the Lord," *Calkin*—By Choir of Springfield Community Church.

Presentation of Building to Bishop on behalf of Board of Trustees—By Thomas S. Hurlock, President of Board.

Dedication Sermon—Bishop Joseph F. Berry, D.D., LL.D., Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dedication of Building by Bishop Berry, assisted by Rev. W. A. Ferguson.

Doxology.

Benediction.

Organ Postlude—"Festal March," *Clark*.

The Pastor and Officials of the Church and Sunday School wish to again thank the people of Springfield for the splendid spirit and co-operation exhibited thus far, and feeling entirely confident of a continuance of same, bespeak for Springfield added zeal for Christian service and many happy gatherings, all made possible by this beautiful and so suitably appointed building which we dedicate today.

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO REMAIN AFTER THE PRO-
NOUNCING OF THE BENEDICTION AND MAKE AN
INSPECTION OF THE BUILDING.

CHURCH OFFICIARY

Board of Trustees

THOMAS S. HURLOCK—President
JOHN W. CALDER—Financial Secretary
CHARLES W. BROOKS—Treasurer
GEORGE F. KURTZ—Corresponding Secretary
WARREN CARTER
RAYMOND D. SCHEETZ
CHARLTON B. BOLLES
FRANK F. GARR, JR.
CECIL W. PEEPLES

Ladies' Aid Society

MRS. CHARLES W. BROOKS—President
MRS. J. W. CALDER—Vice-President
MRS. G. F. KURTZ—Treasurer
W. H. M. S.
MRS. JOSEPH W. SLOAN—President
MRS. DAVID BACHER—Secretary
MRS. GEORGE F. KURTZ—Corresponding Secretary
MRS. M. ETHEL McNIEL—Recording Secretary
MRS. HERBERT P. GREEN—Treasurer

Sunday School Board

JOHN W. CALDER—Superintendent
JOHN J. ROBERTS—Treasurer
GEORGE W. HALLIDAY—Secretary

Building Committee

WARREN CARTER—Chairman
JOHN W. CALDER
CHARLES W. BROOKS
THOMAS S. HURLOCK

Sexton

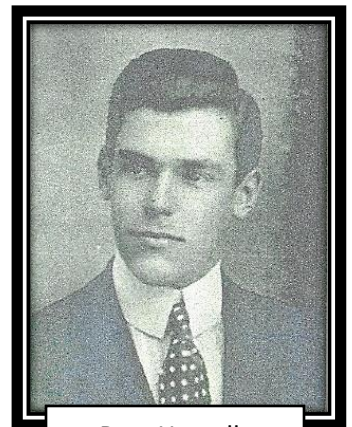
JOSEPH HUNTER
246 Powell Road

In 1928, Rev. Gentry resigned to form an undenominational church in Springfield. About half the membership left at that time. **Rev. Herbert Howells** (1928) served as interim pastor until conference time.



*First parsonage (11 Saxer Ave.)
demolished to build Epworth*

Rev. Clinton M. Cherry was appointed as the first fully ordained pastor and served from 1928 through 1932. The marked decrease in the congregation, the expense of a parsonage, and the financial depression of the nation made the period from 1928 to 1941 a period of struggle.



Rev. Howells

**COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY
(1922-2022)
(ABRIDGED)**

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, December 22, 1929

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10 o'clock

MORNING WORSHIP, 11 o'clock

Prelude
Hymn, 111, followed by Apostles' Creed
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Junior Choir, "The King of Kings".....Sutherland
Responsive Reading, 1st Special Reading (Christmas)
Offering and Offertory
Anthem, "Bethlehem".....Homer N. Barlett
Junior Sermon
Scripture Reading, Luke 2:1-20
Hymn, 112
Sermon, "The Christ-Child".....The Minister
Hymn, 114
Benediction and Doxology

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY, 7 o'clock

EVENING WORSHIP, 8 o'clock

Prelude
Processional with Candles ("Silent Night")-The Choir
Hymn, 107, "Joy to the World" (2nd tune)
Cantata, "The Story of Christmas" (see inside pages)
Benediction and Doxology

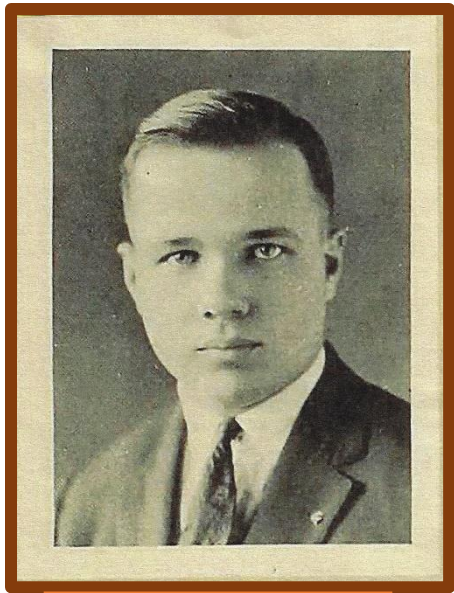
THE CHOIR

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Contralto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>
Cora Carlisle	Rebecca Calder	A.D. Conover
Myra Furman	Eva Grandhomme	John Emminger
Grace Gildner	Stella Roberts	John Roberts
May McCullough	Evelyn Thomas	Walter Thomas
Stella Scheetz	<u>Baritones</u>	
Katharyn Simms	George Beitzel	Raymond Scheetz
Elfrieda Tozer	Roger Cotton	Russell Spruance

Director: Elizabeth Jones Price
Organist: Horace K. Price
Pianist: Pauline Rogers Hendrickson

The choir was in full swing by 1929 as they sang a cantata "The Story of Christmas" by H. Alexander Matthews at the evening worship service.

On Christmas morning at 6 a.m. a service was held and the "morning star" was lighted. The ladies quartet – Mrs. Sheetz, Mrs. Tozer, Mrs. Grandhommie and Mrs. Calder – sang "O Holy Night" by Adams and "Adore and Be Still" by Gounod. The pastor spoke briefly on "Why I am glad This is Christmas."



Rev. Cherry

Rev. Clinton M. Cherry (1928-1932) was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Drew University and received his Master of Theology Degree in 1934.

COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1922-2022) (ABRIDGED)

1929

CHURCH ROSTER

With Dates of Meetings

The Sunday School—George B. Beitzel, superintendent; T. Jeddson Myers, Jr., secretary; John G. Roberts, treasurer; Mrs. John B. McCullough, superintendent, Beginners' Department; Mrs. L. W. Reeps, superintendent, Primary Department; Warren Carter, Women's Bible Class; the Pastor, Men's Bible Class. Sunday School Board, including teachers, fourth Monday, 8 P. M., of February, April, June, October and December.

The Ladies' Aid—Mrs. Warren Carter, president; Mrs. John B. McCullough, vice-president; Mrs. C. O. Neuhaus, recording secretary; Mrs. W. A. Davis, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. F. Churchman, financial secretary; Mrs. T. S. Hurlock, treasurer. Third Thursday, 2.30 P. M.

The Men's League—Read Rocap, president; J. B. Weiler, vice-president; C. H. Walters, secretary; George Bryan, financial secretary; T. W. Hickman, treasurer; C. E. Grandhomme, W. F. Jennings and A. S. Tozer, executive committee. Third Monday, 8 P. M.

Senior Choir—Horace K. Price, organist; Mrs. Horace K. Price, director; Mrs. R. D. Scheetz, president; Mr. George B. Beitzel, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. H. H. Gildner, chairman, Social Committee. Every Thursday at 8 P. M.

Junior Choir—Mrs. George B. Beitzel and Mrs. William F. Jennings, directors. Every Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

Young People's Society—Thompson Richardson, president; J. Pryce Templin, Jr., vice-president; William M. Hickman, secretary; Mary Carter, treasurer.

Trustees—Thomas S. Hurlock, president; George B. Beitzel, Charles W. Brooks, J. W. Calder, Warren Carter, A. D. Conover, Ralph F. Matthews, John B. McCullough and Franklin H. Smith.

Stewards—T. J. Myers, Jr., recording steward; Mrs. H. H. Gildner, communion steward; Mrs. T. S. Hurlock, district steward; Mrs. J. B. McCullough, reserve district steward; F. H. Smith, director of social and recreational life; George B. Beitzel, C. W. Braunsdorf, Mrs. C. W. Brooks, Mrs. J. W. Calder, Mrs. Warren Carter, Mr. Frank J. Furman, Mrs. F. J. Furman, M. A. Hansen, T. W. Hickman, Joseph Hunter, Mrs. G. F. Kurtz, Mrs. R. F. Matthews, Mrs. T. J. Myers, Jr., Dr. C. O. Neuhaus, Mrs. L. W. Reeps, R. D. Scheetz, Mrs. R. D. Scheetz, J. H. Spangenberg, W. S. Thomas and Mrs. J. B. Weiler.

Official Board—The Pastor, chairman ex officio; John B. McCullough, vice-chairman; T. Jeddson Myers, Jr., secretary; Charles W. Brooks, treasurer; J. W. Calder, financial secretary; all trustees, all stewards, all officers and heads of organizations in the church. Fourth Monday, 8 P. M., of January, March, May, September and November.

Sexton—Joseph Hunter, 246 Powell Road.

During a Children's Day Service on Sunday, June 14, 1931, Rev. Cherry baptized long standing and current Covenant member, Anna (Nancy) Margaret Beitzel Hall.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday, June 14, 1931

COMBINED SERVICE, 10.30 o'clock

Prelude
 Beginners Processional, "Onward Christian Soldiers"
 Church School Prayer:
 O Lord God, be with us now,
 As in Thy house we humbly bow,
 And as we sing end as we pray,
 Help us to mean the words we say.
 The Lord's Prayer
 Hymn 386 (Church Hymnal) 202 (S.S.Hymnal)
 Responsive Reading, Church Hymnal page 83 - eighth
 Prayer
 Hymn 543 (Church Hymnal) 146 (S.S.Hymnal)
 Recitation Betty Jane Swift
PROMOTION EXERCISES - "Open the Gates"
 Distribution of Certificates Mrs. M. E. Carlisle
 Cradle Roll Prayer Frank Hendrickson
 Song, "That Sweet Story of Old" Ruth Williamson
 Flower Garden--Cradle Roll and Beginners Department
 Hymn 677 (Church Hymnal) 162 (S.S.Hymnal)
Announcements
 Offering for the Student Loan Fund
 "The Living Posters" Four Junior and Primary Girls
 "An Outdoor Party" Eight Primary Girls
 "Song for Children's Day" Five Beginners
 "The Decision" Four Junior Girls
 Hymn 544 (Church Hymnal) 157 (S.S.Hymnal)
 Talk by the Minister
BAPTISM OF INFANTS AND RECEPTION OF MEMBERS
 Hymn 383 (Church Hymnal) 200 (S.S.Hymnal)
 Benediction

JUNIOR AND SENIOR SOCIETIES, 7 o'clock

The morning services next Sunday will be as usual:
 church school at ten and morning worship at eleven.
 The Bible Study Class will meet Wednesday at 8 P.M.

THE CHURCH BULLETIN June 14, 1931 Page Two

PROMOTIONS--CRADLE ROLL TO BEGINNERS

Hitherto those pupils have been promoted to the Beginners Department who had attained the age of four in the year from our Children's Day to the next. On this basis, the following are promoted:
 Frank O. Hendrickson, Jr., Aug. 8, 1926
 Florence R. Cherry, Sept. 14, 1926
 Jane K. Simms, Sept. 15, 1926
 Robert Patton, Dec. 9, 1926
 Constance Nash, Feb. 2, 1927
 Barbara Nash, Feb. 2, 1927
 Donald Weger, March 16, 1927
 John Pierce Barnes, Jr., Mar. 22, 1927
 Robert Charles Harer, June 2, 1927
 Robert Edward Calder, June 6, 1927

Beginning this year, promotions will also be extended to those whose fourth birthday falls AFTER Children's Day, but in this same year (that is, up to the end of December.) On this basis, the following are being promoted:
 Catherine M. Seigel, July 30, 1927
 Helen R. Mumford, Nov. 6, 1927
 Robert B. Howell, Nov. 9, 1927
 Betty Jane Swift, Nov. 27, 1927
 Miriam Ingraham, Nov. 9, 1927

In this way, all those whose birthdays fall any time in 1928 will be promoted next Children's Day, 1932.

BAPTISMS

The following children are receiving baptism this morning:
 Anna Margaret Beitzel, born March 12, 1931
 Thelma Lillian (Peggy) Gleockler, July 25, 1930
 Janice Norma Gleockler, born Oct. 21, 1930
 Barbara Edwina Harer, born April 16, 1931.

We are happy to receive those children in the beautiful rite of baptism, who are so naturally members of the Kingdom, "for of such is the Kingdom of God."

OFFICIAL BOARD

The Board of Trustees is calling a special meeting of the Official Board tomorrow evening.

COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1922-2022) (ABRIDGED)

Friday, September 4, 1931

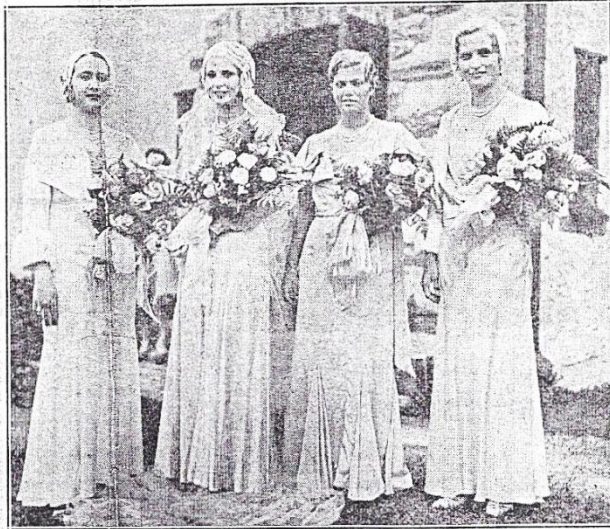
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP CITIZEN

Page Three

THE FASHION REVUE BROUGHT TO YOU

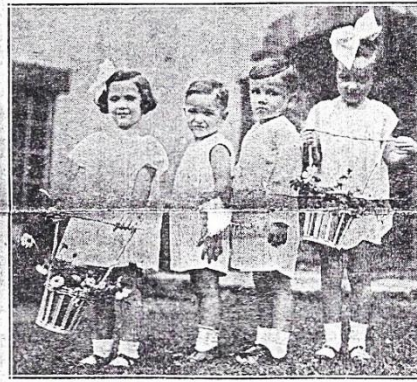


The bride and groom, Ruth McMullin and S. Felton Bickley, in proper attire.



Ruth McMullin, displaying an attractive bridal outfit, and her attendants. Left to right: Flo Worthington, Jane McCalough, and Jean Weltmer.

The various photographs illustrated on this page were taken at the second annual Fashion Show given by the Ladies Aid of the Springfield Community Church Wed. afternoon Aug. 26, in the Community Church



The two charming little maids who acted as flower girls, and the two little lads who carried the bride's train at the Fashion Show. Left to right: Betty Jane Swift, Billy Cherry, George ("Spike") Beitzel, and Florence Cherry.



Ruth McMullin displays an appealing bridal headdress and a beautiful bridal bouquet.



Left to right: Betty Foster, Anna C. Wilson, Mrs. J. J. Schoff, Dorothy Reinhold, Estelle Weiler, Mrs. Ruth B. Ford, and Louise Calder in up-to-date apparel at the Fashion Show.

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The next pastor to follow Rev. Cherry was **Rev. John N. Althouse** (1932-1937). He was a 1927 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and a 1930 graduate of Drew Theological Seminary. He went on to earn a master's degree in 1939 from Crozer Theological Seminary.



From the Delaware County Times, February 15, 1937..... Rev. Althouse was the recipient of the "Good Scout" award, a Scout-statuettes awarded annually by Troop No. 2 to the citizen of Springfield who has done the most for scouting during the past year and whose life exemplifies the Scout oath and laws."

From the Delaware County Times, April 11, 1935.....

SPRINGFIELD

The Rev. John Althouse, chairman of the local Emergency Relief Committee, urges all those unemployed persons who desire to cultivate community gardens this year to apply to him or John Calder, township secretary, for seeds, for fertilizer and allotment of ground for this purpose. The seed and fertilizer are to be supplied by the state, which also will pay for the plowing of gardens. The plots will be furnished by the township.

In addition to this aid Rev. Althouse announces that he has about 75 packets of seed for distribution among those who are not unemployed but desire to cultivate gardens of their own. These seeds may be obtained from Mr. Calder.

CERTIFICATE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

THIS CERTIFIES that *Rola Weaver Lobb* having, in the presence of God and the public congregation, renewed the solemn promise contained in the baptismal covenant, professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, accepted the Christian Faith as contained in the New Testament, and expressed willingness to be loyal to the Church in prayer, presence, gifts and service, has this day been duly received into full connection with the Springfield Community Methodist Episcopal Church at Springfield, Delaware County, Pa. according to the form of the Discipline.

Philadelphia Conference

John N. Althouse Pastor

This 11th day of June

A.D. 1933

The congregation regretfully said "goodbye" to Rev. Althouse as he took an active part in community affairs, helped organize the Cub Pack and was successful in starting a Boy Scout Troop in the church during his five-year pastorate.

COVENANT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

(1922-2022)

(ABRIDGED)



Rev. Herbert A. McKain

Rev. Herbert A. McKain (1937-1941) succeeded Rev. Althouse and preached his first sermon in March at the age of 27. He attended Lancaster Theological Seminary, then graduated from Drew Theological Seminary in 1936, the same year he was ordained. Shortly after his appointment to the Springfield Community Methodist Episcopal Church, he married Catharine D. Hostetter at the church on June 30, 1937.



*Thomas E.
Kraemer,
Choir Director
1936-1960*

Following in the footsteps of Rev. Althouse, he was active in the community as a Vice President of the Rotary Club, active in the work of the local Boy Scout organizations, and a member of the first board of directors of the Springfield Recreation Association. By 1941 the church membership had grown to 252. In June of 1941 he was assigned to the Trainer Methodist Church for a short period of time as he was inducted into the service as a Chaplain. He served in the Army from 1942 until 1947.

In 1939, the church name was changed from the Springfield Community Methodist Episcopal Church to *Springfield Community Methodist Church*.



Tom Thumb Wedding 1939

1st Row: Sally Nesson, Joyce ford, Barbara Rocap (Bride), Nancy Beitzel, Sally Slipf(?), Tom Kraemer (Preacher). 2nd Row: Marilyn Shead, Spike Beitzel (Groom), Jack Keyes, Betty Jane Swift.

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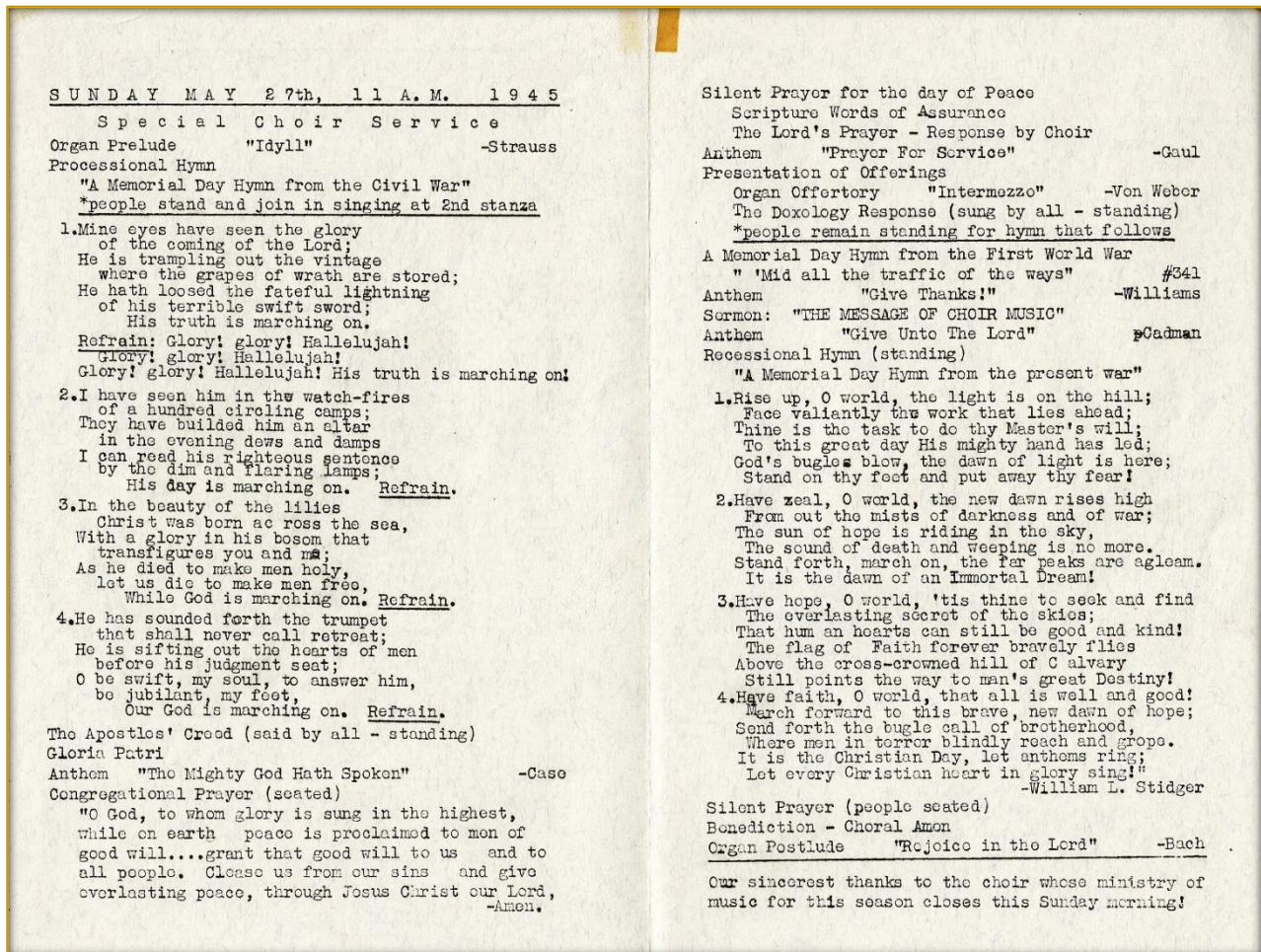


Rev. John A. McElroy

Rev. John A. "Jack" McElroy (1941-1947) was a graduate of Dickinson College and Drew Theological Seminary. He held a Master's Degree in Sacred Theology from Temple University and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1951.

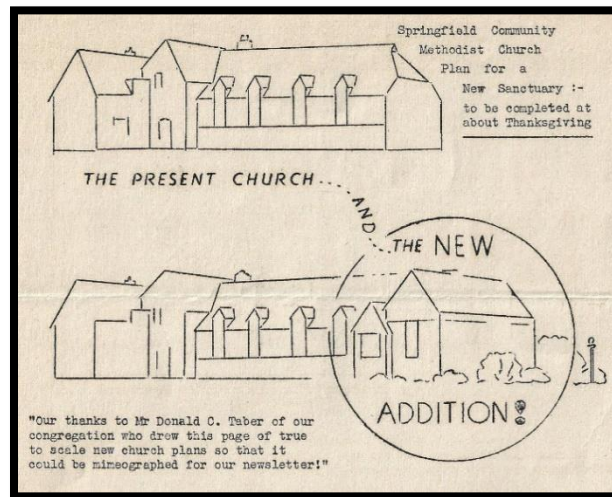
During the pastorate of Rev. McElroy great strides forward were made during the war years: a new parsonage was purchased (104 Forest Road), the debt on the church was entirely liquidated, and a second building project was underway to enlarge the meeting room to increase the seating capacity by 50 persons.

A "Special Choir Service" was held on Sunday, May 27, 1945 at the 11 o'clock service, a tradition that continues today.



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While still carrying on the campaign to “Free Our Church” of debt, the congregation pledged to raise additional moneys needed to complete the new church without debt. With generous donations of three Methodist Mission Boards and the generosity of the congregation, this pledge was kept and the church was free of debt. The “New Church” was dedicated on February 17, 1946. At the end of Rev. McElroy’s tenure, 704 members were reported to the Annual Conference.



To be continued.... the next 25 years (1947-1972)